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**Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA)**

Executive Committee
Third meeting
Rabat, 6-7 May 2017

# Information note

1. *Background*

The Executive Committee was established pursuant to Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA) resolution 320 (XVIII) on redesignating the Technical Committee as the "Executive Committee" and amending its terms of reference, so as to play a greater role in steering and coordinating the activities of the Commission in the period between ESCWA sessions. The Executive Committee monitors the implementation of recommendations and the application of discussed agendas, in addition to following-up on important regional and global issues, including the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The Committee holds its meetings every six months. Its second meeting was held in Amman, from14 to 16 December 2015.

2. *Topics for discussion*

At its third meeting, the Executive Committee will discuss progress in implementing the Doha Declaration on the Implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in Arab countries, and the resolutions issued at the twenty-ninth ESCWA session. The Committee will also follow up on the implementation of the resolutions issued at its second meeting, and evaluate its work. It will consider regional and global issues, including the outcomes of the United Nations Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development (Habitat III), held in Quito, from 17 to 20 October 2016, and the outcomes of the twenty-second Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, held in Marrakech, Morocco, from 7 to 18 November 2016. Furthermore, the Committee will discuss a progress report on implementing the ESCWA action plan on financing for development, the future of the digital economy in the Arab region, and the outcomes of the 2017 Arab Forum on Sustainable Development. The Committee will also review the proposed programme of work for the biennium 2018-2019 for consideration and adoption, and other issues set out in the provisional agenda.

3. *Agenda and organization of work*

The provisional and annotated agenda for the third meeting of the Executive Committee is set out in document E/ESCWA/2017/EC.3/L.1. The proposed organization of work is contained in document E/ESCWA/2017/EC.3/L.2.

4. *Participants*

Representatives of ESCWA member States and relevant experts will participate in the session. Participating Governments shall be responsible for the travel and accommodation expenses of their representatives, in accordance with United Nations practice, except one representative from each of the following countries: Mauritania, Palestine, the Sudan and Yemen.

5. *Date and venue*

The third meeting of the Executive Committee will be held at La Tour Hassan Hotel in Rabat, on 6 and 7 May 2017. Registration will commence at 9 a.m. on Saturday, 6 May 2017, and the opening session will convene at 10 a.m. on the same day. Sessions will conclude at 2 p.m. on Sunday, 7 May 2017.

6. *Languages of the session*

Session proceedings will be in Arabic. English may be used to present some papers, if necessary. Simultaneous interpretation from and into Arabic and English will be provided.

7. *Entry visas*

Participants may apply for an entry visa from the Moroccan Embassy in their respective countries.

8. *Accommodation and transportation*

ESCWA suggests that participants book their accommodation at La Tour Hassan Hotel in Rabat, or in other hotels nearby. The secretariat has prepared a list of hotels offering preferential rates to participants, which will be sent to participants by email. Participants may contact their preferred hotel directly to make a booking, noting that they are participating in the third meeting of the ESCWA Executive Committee. The hotel may organize airport pick-up and drop-off services, in accordance with agreements reached between participants and the hotel.

The hotel address is:

La Tour Hassan Hotel
26 Rue Chellah
Rabat, Morocco
Tel.: +212 5372-39000
E-mail: reservation@latourhassan.com
Website: http://www.latourhassan.com

9. *Time zone*

Morocco time is Greenwich Mean Time (GMT) +1.

10. *Weather*

At the time of the meeting, temperatures are expected to range between 15 degrees Celsius and 25 degrees Celsius.

11. *Currency and exchange rate*

The Moroccan dirham is the currency of Morocco. The exchange rate in the Moroccan market is 10.057 dirhams to 1 United States dollar.

12. *Correspondence*

All session-related correspondence should be sent to the following:

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